

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHP URGES SAFE AND SANE JULY 4TH HOLIDAY ON THE HIGHWAYS

California Highway Patrol (CHP) Commissioner Dwight Helmick today urged Californians to celebrate this year's Fourth of July holiday by driving safely and buckling up at all times.

"The CHP will be in a maximum enforcement period from 6 p.m. today through midnight on Sunday, July 6," Helmick said.

"This means we will deploy extra enforcement vehicles during the heavy travel times and in areas with unusually high traffic collision rates. CHP Officers will be on the lookout for motorists whose driving creates risk for themselves or others.

"Those suspected of driving under the influence (DUI) will get special attention," he noted, "but so will those traveling without benefit of safety belt protection."

The Commissioner pointed out that California law authorizes officers to stop and cite motorists for not wearing safety belts. "Just like DUI, speeding or other hazardous activity, drivers or passengers who are not buckled up will draw our attention," Helmick said.

The Commissioner cautioned holiday travelers to use common sense and good judgment during the weekend.

"Allow plenty of time to get to and from your destination," he said. "Start your trip early, especially if you're traveling into or through areas of heavy traffic. And don't try to drive if you're not well rested.

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“If you’ve been drinking, let someone else do the driving – or postpone the trip until your system has completely absorbed and eliminated the alcohol. Alcohol-related crashes are still far and away the leading cause of traffic fatalities.

“Remember this above all: whenever you’re traveling in a vehicle, whether it’s the length of the state or just down to the corner market, be sure to buckle up – and see that everyone else in your vehicle does the same,” Commissioner Helmick concluded.

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